

Foundation Forum

Foundation Forum and Historic Huntsville Foundation Newsletter

HHF's Bicentennial Projects

Color Me, Huntsville and *Finding Huntsville* Brings Out the Kid Inside Us All



Castellano credited the collaborative relationships within the greater Huntsville community as fundamental to the success of HHF's projects. *Finding Huntsville* was funded through grants from the Community Foundation of Greater Huntsville and a Certified Local Grant (CLG) from the Alabama Historical Commission, in conjunction with the City of Huntsville. Dr. Caroline Swope created the *Finding Huntsville* activity book.

Presenting Mayor Battle with a set of *Color Me, Huntsville* coloring books, Castellano recognized artists Carole Forêt, Christina Green and Christina Wegman, whose original artwork animates the pages of the books.

As school children looked on, Mayor Battle expressed appreciation to the Foundation for its work to introduce Huntsville's history to new generation of residents through the Bicentennial. Battle noted the collaborative relationships within our city and encouraged this cooperation to continue.

For many, the highlight of the morning occurred after the formalities ended. School children had stopped by Harrison Brothers before the press conference. While everyone spoke, they cheerfully colored sketches from *Color Me, Huntsville*. After the conference, Mayor Battle stopped by to chat. To get a closer look at their artwork, the mayor sat down with the kids, who were delighted to share their books and colored pencils with him.

The Historic Huntsville Foundation is committed to building a vibrant future for Huntsville-Madison County by preserving our past. Since 1974, we have promoted the protection and preservation of Huntsville-Madison County's historically, architecturally and culturally significant structures and sites through education, advocacy and public policy.

Mayor Tommy Battle brushes up on his coloring skills with a few new friends

When we at the Historic Huntsville Foundation first began planning for the Alabama Bicentennial way back in 2017, our goal was to create lasting projects that would have an impact long after we blew out the candles on Alabama's birthday cake. Now, two years later, we believe we've met this goal.

All was on display at a press conference in Harrison Brothers Hardware on Thursday, May 9. Surrounded by sponsors and community partners, Sally Warden, HHF Vice Chair and Chairman of the Huntsville-Madison County Bicentennial Committee, welcomed guests. Executive Director Donna Castellano presented Mayor Tommy Battle with commemorative copies of HHF's signature Bicentennial projects, *Finding Huntsville: A Kid Friendly Field Guide to Huntsville's Historic Architectures* and *Color Me, Huntsville*.

A word from your Historic Huntsville Foundation Board Chairman...

We only have to take “one small step” out the front door to see that Summer is officially here! The heat is on to make this season of both Bicentennial and Apollo 50 celebrations a great one, literally and figuratively. As I roll up my sleeves and press onward in my new role as your Historic Huntsville Foundation (HHF) Board Chairman, I’m bursting with excitement to do great things with my fellow dedicated board members, our talented Executive Director, the fabulous Harrison Brothers Hardware team as well as each and every one of you!

The ongoing Alabama Bicentennial celebration has and will continue to spotlight Huntsville’s historic assets. Our creative and innovative HHF team has seized this opportunity to develop fun, educational ways

for the community to learn even more about all we have to offer. Whether it’s the new *Color Me Huntsville* coloring books featuring works by wonderful local artists, the *Finding Huntsville: A Kid-Friendly Field Guide to Huntsville’s Historic Architecture*, or so many more activities we’re currently cooking up, there’s no excuse not to enjoy a little more Historic Huntsville in your life over the coming months.

Likewise, the Apollo 50th Anniversary activities will occasionally make their way to our Harrison Brothers doorstep particularly with events like the *Apollo 11 50th Anniversary Dancing in the Streets* event, to be hosted on the courthouse square on July 19th, 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

With only a short time in this position under my belt, I can’t yet say all the



HHF Chair Leslie Walker

impactful projects we will take on this year but, please know this, I take very seriously my brief stretch on what is the great Huntsville timeline and am already thrilled with the direction we’re heading.

As a sixth-generation native to Huntsville, my roots here run deep. Just as those who came before me, I believe the seeds we plant today will continue to help Huntsville grow tomorrow. My hope is, in this coming season, HHF will blossom like never before. Happy Summer, Y’all!



Looking for *Finding Huntsville* and *Color Me, Huntsville*?



Photo by Olivia Hooper Reed

Finding Huntsville activity books are available at the Convention and Visitors Center on Church Street and Harrison Brothers Hardware. Third grade teachers can request copies of Finding Huntsville through Free2Teach.

Color Me, Huntsville coloring books are available at Harrison Brothers Hardware, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Salon KaTerra, The Little Green Store, and Josie’s Museum Shop at the Burritt Museum. You can also purchase through the HHF website, www.historichuntsville.org. Books are \$10 each and \$30 for a set of three.



Photo by Olivia Hooper Reed

Your purchases help fund a program with the Huntsville, Madison and Madison County School system to introduce *Color Me, Huntsville* coloring books into third grade classrooms, beginning the Fall of 2019.

Please contact Donna Castellano at donna@historichuntsville.org for more information or to support these programs. Discounts are available on orders of fifty books or more.

Catching UP!

Donna Castellano

Whew! It's been a whirlwind around the HHF office, and none more hectic than the last six months--writing, editing, and putting the finishing touches on our Bicentennial projects. The HHF newsletter is a bit behind schedule, but I hope you will understand when you see what we've been up to over the past months.

In this issue of the newsletter, we share our Bicentennial projects with you and the overwhelming positive response they've received within our community. A conversation I had with a Riverton Elementary school student sort of sums up the experience.

A few weeks ago I spoke to a fourth grade class at Riverton Elementary about *Color Me, Huntsville* and historic preservation. I walked them through the books, holding up the pages and explaining the history of the places sketched on the pages. I told them that HHF was giving them each a coloring book, and to come over and choose the book they wanted. As I stood there, a little boy came over to me and said, "I just moved to Huntsville and Alabama. I want to learn more about this. Which is the book with the MOST history?"



Color Me, Huntsville is a bit with fourth grade Riverton elementary school kids.

I've heard that a bell rings every time an angel gets its wings. When a history student is born, how is Clio rewarded?

Our goal with *Finding Huntsville* and *Color Me, Huntsville* is to imprint on the hearts and minds of these young children the importance of Huntsville and Madison County's historic resources. By building this connection, we help create the next generation of historic preservationists.

I think we are off to a good start! Thank you all for your continued support.

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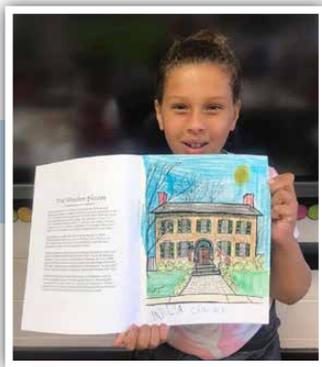
Historic Huntsville's Bicentennial celebration is JUST beginning. When the weather cools in the early fall, we will host a "Footsteps to Statehood" self-guided walking tour of Alabama's Bicentennial Houses. Bicentennial houses are structures built within the Twickenham Historic District that date from 1814 to 1819. We will also include a bonus house or two!

Joining us will be characters from the Huntsville Pilgrimage Association, who will add a personal element to our afternoon together. Light refreshments will be served. This tour is funded through a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Huntsville.

Our Membership Reception will be held at the Lowe House on Williams Avenue and will include a tour of the restored dependency on the property. The dependency dates from Alabama's early statehood era.. The Lowe House is owned by the University of Alabama-Huntsville and is the residence of the UAH President. Date to be announced.



Photos by Olivia Haoper Reed



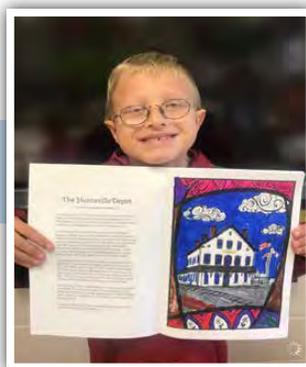
The Weeden House

The pretty white brick house with the black shutters and arched leaded glass fanlight over the front door has stood at the corner of Gates Avenue and Greene Street since 1819, the same year that Alabama became a state. The Weeden House is in the Twickenham Historic District, which is the oldest historic neighborhood in the state of Alabama. The Weeden House is a place of both historical and cultural importance to our state.

John McKinley bought the house for his family in 1824. McKinley was an attorney, a U. S. Senator, and a Justice on the United States Supreme Court. McKinley was the first Alabamian to serve on the Supreme Court.

The house became the home of the Weeden family in 1845 and stayed in Weeden family hands until 1956. The most famous resident of the house is Howard Maria Weeden. Born in 1846, Howard Weeden showed an early talent for painting. After the Civil War, she became an acclaimed artist and poet recognized for her realistic portraits of African American women and men.

Understanding the house's importance to Alabama history, the Twickenham Historic Preservation District Association purchased the house in 1973 to operate as a museum. Today, people from around the world visit the Weeden House to learn about Howard Maria Weeden and enjoy her artwork.



The Huntsville Depot

The mustard-colored Huntsville railroad depot on Church Street is the oldest railroad depot in Alabama and one of the oldest in the United States. A depot is a building where trains pick up passengers and load or unload cargo.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, railroads gave people a quicker way to travel. Railroads also gave farmers, merchants, and manufacturers a new way to get their crops, goods, or products to market. The Memphis and Charleston railroad connected the Mississippi River in Memphis, Tennessee with the Atlantic Ocean in Charleston, South Carolina. The Memphis and Charleston railroad reached Huntsville in 1855; the depot was constructed in 1860.

During the Civil War, the Union army destroyed southern railroads to stop troop and supply movements. Huntsville fell to the Union army in April 1862. Unlike most depots in the south, the Huntsville depot was not destroyed. The Union army used Huntsville as a headquarters during the war. The Union army's occupation of the city saved many of Huntsville's buildings, including the depot building.

After the war, southern railroads were rebuilt and rail travel continued. The Huntsville depot was renovated in 1912. Passenger trains ran through Huntsville until 1968. Freight trains still carry cargo on the old Memphis and Charleston railroad route.

Today, the Huntsville depot is a museum and part of the EarlyWorks Family of Museums.



The Church of the Nativity, Episcopal

The steeple of the Church of Nativity, Episcopal soars more than 150 feet, drawing our eyes to the heavens and creating a visual landmark over downtown Huntsville.

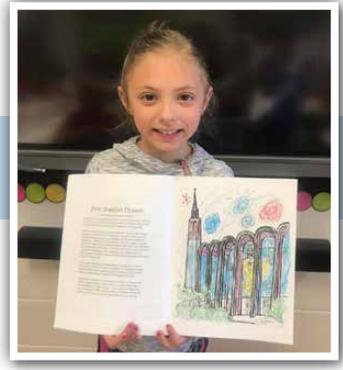
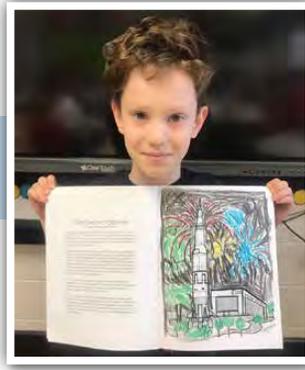
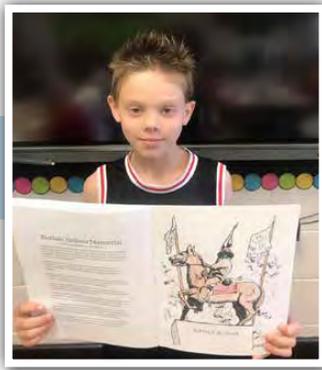
When Huntsville's Episcopal church began in 1843, the members, or congregants, built a simple brick church. By the 1850s, they outgrew that simple brick church. They wanted a larger building built in the Gothic Revival style.

Gothic Revival style churches are very tall. Windows are large, shaped like pointed arches, and filled with stained glass. The windows are also divided by decorative stonework, called tracery. The roof has a steep slope, so the building's shape is pointed, too. The architect used these features to draw our eyes and attention up toward heaven.

The Church of the Nativity, Episcopal is a National Historic Landmark, an honor given by the National Park Service to our nation's most important historic buildings. The Church of the Nativity is the only National Historic Landmark building in Huntsville-Madison County that is open to the public.

The simple brick church that first served the Nativity congregation went on to great things, too. In the 1880s, the building was taken apart. Its materials were used to build Lakeside Methodist Church. This was an African American church on Jefferson Street whose members included former slaves.

R ME SVILLE



In the 1880s, black and white children did not go to school together. Lakeside Methodist was Huntsville's first city-supported African American school and library.

Fire destroyed the building in the 1960s. A historic plaque on Jefferson Street marks the place where the brick church once stood.

Buffalo Soldier Memorial

The Buffalo Soldier Memorial honors African American soldiers who fought in the United States Army in the years after the Civil War. Many of these soldiers were freed slaves who wanted to fight for their country. At that time, the troops were segregated.

African American troops were sent to guard the western frontier. Native Americans gave these troops the nickname "Buffalo Soldiers" because the soldiers fought as fiercely as a buffalo.

Buffalo Soldiers also served in the Spanish-American War of 1898. This statue is of 10th Cavalry Sgt. George Berry, who rode up San Juan Hill and into battle during the war.

After the Spanish-American War, several hundred Buffalo Soldiers came to Huntsville to recuperate. The site where they camped became known as Cavalry Hill.

In 1948, after World War II, President Harry Truman signed an order that integrated the U. S. military.

The Buffalo Soldier Memorial sits on the front lawn of the Cavalry Hills Elementary School building on Poplar Avenue, on a rise overlooking the neighborhood. The statue is the only Buffalo Soldier Memorial east of the Mississippi River.

The Saturn V Rocket

On Sunday night, July 20, 1969, people from around the world gathered around their television sets to watch Neil Armstrong take man's first steps on the surface of the moon. Armstrong's "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" moment is deeply rooted in Huntsville.

During Huntsville's early history, life in Huntsville and Madison County centered on cotton—either growing it or turning it into cloth. All that changed with the arrival of Werner von Braun and his team of German rocket scientists in 1950. The United States wanted to put a manned spacecraft into orbit and send astronauts safely to the moon. Engineers and scientists came to Huntsville to help the United States with the moonshot.

Rocket scientists designed, tested, and built the Saturn V rocket at Huntsville's Marshall Space Flight Center. The Apollo Program used the Saturn V rocket to launch the Apollo 11 spacecraft that took men to the moon.

The U. S. Space & Rocket Center collects and displays space artifacts in a museum that educates visitors about the United States space program. A replica of the Saturn V rocket is part of its collection.

The Saturn V rocket has become a symbol of inspiration to people around the world, encouraging them to try the impossible.

First Baptist Church

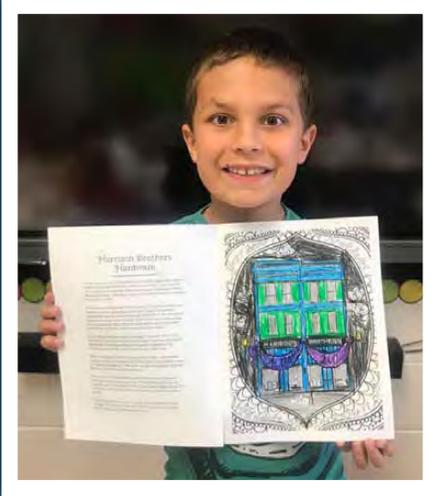
As Huntsville changed from a town where people grew cotton to a city where people designed rockets, buildings rose in the Huntsville skyline that reflected the city's new identity.

With its barrel-vaulted arches, glass tile mosaic, and rocket-inspired bell tower, the First Baptist Church on Governor's Drive is recognized as one of Huntsville's finest modernist landmarks. Modernist architecture used new materials and new technology to construct buildings that looked very different from anything built before. In Huntsville, where new science and new technologies were leading us to the exploration of space, people wanted modern buildings that marked this new period in our history.

The church is also special because of its members' direct connection to the U. S. Space program. As Marshall Space Flight Center drew engineers and scientists to Huntsville, many of these families joined First Baptist Church.

Organized in 1809, the First Baptist Church is Alabama's oldest Baptist church. The Governor's Drive building is the congregation's fifth church. Construction began on the sanctuary in 1962, one year after President Kennedy announced his goal to send a man safely to the moon.

Help us Share the Love of History and Preservation with a Sponsorship of *Color Me, Huntsville*



\$1,000 BICENTENNIAL SPONSOR

- Business or family name listed as a Bicentennial Sponsor in *Color Me, Huntsville*
- Recognition as a Preservation Society Member on the *Community Partners and Benefactors Board* in Harrison Brothers Hardware

\$500 BICENTENNIAL PARTNER

- Business or family name listed as Bicentennial Partner in the *Color Me, Huntsville* coloring book series
- Recognition as a Bicentennial Partner on the *Community Partners and Benefactors Board* in Harrison Brothers Hardware

Sponsor names are added to *Color Me, Huntsville* books as they are reprinted;
2019 membership dues can be applied toward all sponsorships.

How Many Ways are there to Celebrate National Preservation Month?

#ThisPlaceMatters Kickoff on East Side Square



The dynamic duo of Carol Cordori and Berry Allen restored the historic sidewalk and display on East Side Square.

If you've been on the courthouse square recently, you've noticed that the display case highlighting the historic, nineteenth century sidewalk has been spiffed up a bit. The dynamic duo of Carol Cordori and Berry Allen took on the restoration of the Sunken Sidewalk on East Side Square. Both poured passion into the project; Carol worked with the City of Huntsville-Landscape Management Department, Huntsville Madison County Historical Society and the Historic Huntsville Foundation to secure funding, and Berry donated his metalworking skills to make it all come together beautifully. To recognize their contribution, the City of Huntsville-Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission held their #ThisPlaceMatters press conference at the newly restored Sunken Sidewalk.

FINDING HUNTSVILLE WALKING TOURS DEBUT WITH RAVE REVIEWS



Dr. Caroline Swope, creator of *Finding Huntsville: A Kid-Friendly Field Guide to Huntsville's Historic Architecture*, leads the kickoff *Finding Huntsville* tour around the courthouse square. *Finding Huntsville* reflects Caroline knowledge of architectural history, her enthusiasm for Huntsville's historic buildings and her boundless energy.

GIVE THE GIFT OF *Color Me, Huntsville*



Photo by Olivia Hooper Reed

HHF offers a wholesale discount on book orders of 50 or more. As an added feature, HHF will personalize the title page or your coloring book order and add text, company logo, or other features that brand your books as a special gift from you or your company. A personally branded *Color Me, Huntsville* is a perfect gift for conference guests, clients, customers, workforce recruitment, and as a party favor for all kinds of events.

St. John AME Church Welcomes HHF and *Color Me, Huntsville*



The Historic Huntsville Foundation and *Color Me, Huntsville* were the guests of St. John AME Church on Sunday, May 19, where HHF and artist Christina Green were thanked for bringing attention to their church and its history through *Color Me, Huntsville*. Christina included a sketch of St. John AME in her coloring books. Assisted by St. John AME member Barbara Johnson, Donna Castellano, Christina Green, and Christina's son Bennett and Jack gave copies of *Color Me, Huntsville* to the children in the congregation.

A PASSION TO PRESERVE BRINGS IT ALL TOGETHER



HHF Board Chairman Leslie Walker wowed the crowd with her mad moderating skills at "Histories in the Making: A Passion to Preserve," a program and panel discussion highlighting the People of Preservation, a free event presented by the Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission.

Huntsville's newest event venue Stovehouse was the perfect setting for the evening, creating a glorious backdrop for Olye Ballard Conley, Dr. John Kvach, Kirk and Cynthia Giles, and Debra Jenkins who shared inspiring stories from their personal preservation journeys. The success of this event reflected the hard work of City of Huntsville Preservation Consultant Katie Stamps.



124 Southside Square
Huntsville, AL 35801

2019 Membership Levels & Benefits

Individual/Family Membership \$50

- Guests at holiday membership reception
- Invitations to HHF Special Event
- Receive HHF newsletter
- Recognition in HHF newsletter, 10% off shopping discount in HBH, excluding sale or consignment.

Patron \$125 *All of the above, plus:*

- Recognition as Patron in HHF newsletter

Benefactor \$250 *All of the above, plus:*

- Recognized as Benefactor Member in HHF newsletter
- Recognition as Benefactor on Community Sponsors and Donor Board displayed in Harrison Brothers Hardware

Bicentennial Partner \$500 *All of the above, plus:*

- Recognition as a Bicentennial Partner in the *Color Me, Huntsville* coloring book

Preservation Society \$1000 *All of the above, plus:*

- Recognized as Preservation Society member in HHF newsletter
- Community Sponsors and Donors Board, and *Color Me, Huntsville* coloring book

Preservation Partner \$2,500 *All of the above, plus:*

- Recognized as Preservation Partner in HHF Newsletter
- Community Sponsors and Donors Board, and *Color Me, Huntsville* coloring book

Thank you for building a more vibrant future for Huntsville-Madison County by preserving our past!

Membership Levels

- Yes, Please renew my membership in the Historic Huntsville Foundation.
- Individual & Family \$50
- Patron \$125
- Benefactor \$250
- Bicentennial Partner \$500
- Preservation Society \$1,000
- Preservation Partner \$2,500

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